

Project Nomination and Evaluation Criteria **Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)**

1. Project Title:

- Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

2. Entity/Individual Nominating the Project:

- Andrew MacInnes, Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Administrator
- Plaquemines Parish Coastal Zone Advisory Committee

3. Contact Information:

- Andrew MacInnes
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4. Total CIAP Funds Requested:

5. Parish CIAP Funds Requested:

6. State CIAP Funds Requested:

7. Infrastructure Funds Requested:

8. Description and Location of Project:

- The proposed project seeks to enhance existing dredging practices on the Mississippi River and its Passes by cost sharing with the relevant agencies for targeted marsh creation. The Corps has identified numerous open water 'cells' in the immediate vicinity of the Mississippi River that could easily be filled with sediments dredged from the River. To some extent, this practice exists as in the case of the Pilottown anchorage area being dredged and utilizing the material for deposition in the West Bay sediment diversion outfall area. However, the beneficial use only encompasses approximately 25% of the total river area to be dredged, with the rest of the material usually being dumped down South Pass or Pass A Loutre. This project would coordinate funding to have the excess material strategically pumped into the identified areas for marsh creation. All cells are south of the Buras area in Plaquemines Parish.

- Plaquemines Parish also wishes to explore the idea of beneficially using sediments at the head of Pass A Loutre. According to the Corps of Engineers, there may be up to 10M cubic yards of material waiting to be dredged and we are

interested in utilizing this material beneficially. However, we are sensitive to the idea that the Corps of Engineers should always be beneficially using the material in the first place and we do not want to alleviate them of any responsibility in incorporating this practice by doing their work for them. We simply believe that river sediments, as a renewable resource, should be used as beneficially as possible, every time dredging occurs. We would like to explore the idea of working with the State as well on this matter, even though the Corps is agency responsible for maintaining the river.

9. Project Type:

- Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetlands.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- Planning assistance and administrative costs of CIAP compliance

10. Project Justification:

1. Sediment delivery is the most effective way to rebuild/recreate marsh
2. Mississippi River sediment is a renewable and consistently available resource
3. The loss of accumulated sediment off the continental shelf due to established dredging practices is contrary to the idea of coastal restoration
4. Dredging of the Mississippi and its Passes must take place to ensure navigation
5. A significant portion of the cost for dredging is already being funded

11. Project Cost Share (Types and amounts of non-CIAP funds proposed, if any):

- There is potential to cost-share with the Corps of Engineers and/or DNR. Plaquemines Parish would just like to see more dredged material used beneficially.